

### Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### Listing of Claims:

1-7. (Cancelled).

8. (Currently Amended) A mesoporous silica composite material, comprising:  
a porous substrate; and  
a mesoporous silica deposited on said porous substrate, said mesoporous silica exhibiting alkaline resistance, having uniform mesopores and a periodic structure and including a Zr element in the form of a Si-O-Zr bond and, wherein the an amount of Zr content in the said Si-O-Zr bond, represented by  $[Zr/(Si + Zr)]$ , is in a range of 0.05 to 20 mole %.

9. (Previously Presented) A mesoporous silica composite material according to claim 8, wherein said mesoporous silica has one of a particulate form and a filmy form.

10. (Currently Amended) A mesoporous silica composite material according to claim 8, wherein the diameters of the said mesopores of said mesoporous silica are in a range of 1.0 to 3.0 nm and the a volume of the mesopores of said mesoporous silica is in a range of 0.5 to 1.0 cc/g.

11. (Currently Amended) A mesoporous silica composite material according to claim 8, wherein said mesoporous silica has an ~~alkali~~ alkaline resistance index of larger than 10 in terms of pH when an ~~alkali~~ alkaline resistance test is conducted and evaluation is made using X-ray diffraction based on the an X-ray diffraction peak intensity appearing at  $2\theta = 2.5^\circ$  of x-ray diffraction.

12-13. (Cancelled).

14. (Currently Amended) A mesoporous silica composite material according to claim 8, wherein said mesoporous silica is formed by mixing, as starting materials, a solution including a surfactant ~~with~~ and at least one of a solution including a Si source and a Zr source and a dispersion including a Si source and a Zr source to form a gel ~~which is~~ and then processed further processing said gel to produce said mesoporous silica.